



In every corner of Oregon today, there are hundreds of miles of highways without any OSP coverage. The number of Oregon State Troopers patrolling our highways peaked in the late 1970's. In 1980, the year that OSP funding was disconnected from the gas tax, there were 624 OSP troopers and sergeants on our roads.

**Today, we have only 381 troopers and sergeants.**

Since 1980, the number of vehicles on our freeways and highways in Oregon have skyrocketed. The Oregon Police low staffing level amounts to only eight patrol troopers for every 100,000 Oregonians, a ratio that puts Oregon second-to-last in our country.

**Highways and interstates aren't patrolled 24 hours a day, and troopers aren't able to respond to thousands of calls for service.**

**Let's fix it.**



**SB 1545** would ensure that Oregon is working toward fifteen State Troopers for every 100,000 Oregonians in the next ten years. This ratio would move the needle on public safety and ensure that when Oregonians need a Trooper they can respond quickly and effectively. In 2019, the Legislature and Governor made the first step of critically-needed investments in OSP, so SB 1545 will have no additional fiscal impact for 2019-21.

### Why are State Troopers critical to public safety in Oregon?

More state troopers will result in less impaired and distracted driving.

- During the past five years, serious traffic injuries are up 22 percent.
- Speeding-related fatalities are up 38 percent.
- Overall traffic fatalities are up 47 percent.
- Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities are up a whopping 75 percent.

**Investing more resources in state troopers will save money by preventing traffic accidents – and it will save lives.** There is substantial evidence that more state troopers patrolling and enforcing laws on Oregon highways will help prevent Oregon drivers – especially younger drivers – from driving while impaired or distracted.



**Contact:** Dave Hunt at [daveh@strategies360.com](mailto:daveh@strategies360.com) or 503.810.8387